



RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO PROMOTE ULU AS A PRIORITY CROP FOR HAWAII.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe and unprecedented impact on the State of Hawaii's economy, causing hotels, shopping malls, airlines, restaurants, retailers, service professionals, nonprofits, and numerous small businesses to significantly reduce or shut down operations; and

WHEREAS, the reopening of the State's economy offers an opportunity to invest in changes that further the goals of economic diversification and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, by expanding its investment in the production and sale of Hawaii-grown agricultural commodities, the State can improve Hawaii's food security, contribute to job creation, protect the environment, and enhance the diversification of Hawaii's economy; and

WHEREAS, ulu (breadfruit) is a long-lived, easy to grow, productive, nutritious, starchy staple crop that has the potential to make a substantial contribution to the long-term food and economic security and agricultural sustainability of the State; and

WHEREAS, prior to Western contact and changing diets, ulu contributed significantly to the Hawaiian diet, allowing Native Hawaiians to be self-sufficient and well-nourished; and

WHEREAS, ulu is high in complex carbohydrates, low in fat, and cholesterol- and gluten-free; it has a moderate glycemic index compared to white potato, white rice, and white bread, making ulu an excellent staple option to refined foods; and

WHEREAS, the ulu tree also offers by-products that can be used for commercial purposes – the sap from the ulu is high in organic latex, the organic chemical content of the ulu flower has insecticide and skin moisturizer uses, and the ulu tree's fallen fruit and leaves can provide animal feed or biomass for green energy; and

WHEREAS, ulu's relatively short shelf life has posed a challenge in the past, but it has been found that mature ulu can be dehydrated, ground, and processed into a gluten-free flour, which can serve as a substitute for wheat flour; and

WHEREAS, in gluten-free flour form, ulu has great potential in the development of food products, such as baked goods and snacks for those who suffer from celiac



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-124

RESOLUTION

disease and gluten intolerance, and can be a major commodity in the multi-billion dollar gluten-free food industry; and

WHEREAS, however, except as a specialized ethnic food to the Caribbean, Polynesian, Melanesian, and Micronesian minority communities, the U.S. consumer is generally unfamiliar with ulu and its beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, in order to realize the vast potential of ulu as a major contributor to Hawaii's economic diversification and food security, support for the ulu industry is needed from the State and local governments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu to promote ulu as a priority crop for Hawaii; and



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-124

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, the Director of the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Dean of the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Mayor, and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ngym Pine

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 14 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 20-124

Introduced: 05/14/20 By: KYMBERLY PINE

Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO PROMOTE ULU AS A PRIORITY CROP FOR HAWAII.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

05/20/20 COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 20-124 WAS ADOPTED.

9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK


IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER